UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/552
S/23129
9 October 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 31
THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 8 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the "General Agenda and Timetable for the Comprehensive Negotiating Process" signed at Caracas, Venezuela, on 21 May 1990 by representatives of the Government of El Salvador and of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this note and its annex distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ricardo G. CASTANEDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

General agenda and timetable for the comprehensive negotiating process

A. GENERAL AGENDA

I. The initial objective shall be to reach political agreements which lay the basis for a cessation of the armed conflict and of any acts that infringe the rights of the civilian population, which will have to be verified by the United Nations, subject to the approval of the Security Council.

(a) First: Political agreements

(1) Armed forces

(2) Human rights

(3) Judicial system

(4) Electoral system

(5) Constitutional reform

(6) Economic and social issues

(7) Verification by the United Nations

(b) Second: Cessation of the armed conflict and of any acts that infringe the rights of the civilian population

II. Establishment of the necessary guarantees and conditions for reintegrating the members of FMLN, within a framework of full legality, into the civil, institutional and political life of the country.

(1) Armed forces

(2) Human rights

(3) Judicial system

(4) Electoral system

(5) Constitutional reform

(6) Economic and social issues

(7) Reintegration of FMLN members

(8) Verification by the United Nations

III. Final agreements for the consolidation of the objectives of the Geneva Agreement and verification, where appropriate, by the United Nations.

Note: The sequence of the items listed for each phase does not imply a strict order of consideration and may be changed by mutual consent.

Agreements must be tailored to the nature of the phase involved. Political issues have been placed in their respective phases but, given the complexity of some of them, aspects thereof may be addressed in other phases. All this depends on the dynamic of the negotiations.

B. TIMETABLE

In the light of the general agenda for the comprehensive negotiating process set forth in the preceding section, the Government of El Salvador and FMLN agree that the initial objective set forth in paragraph 1 of the Geneva Agreement of 4 April 1990 should be achieved by the middle of September 1990, provided that agreements are reached which are synchronized, have implementation timetables and can be verified where appropriate, so as to ensure that all the components of the initial objective are duly coordinated.

This deadline would offer the additional advantage of helping to ensure that a legislative and municipal electoral process is conducted in an atmosphere of tranquillity, broad participation and freedom from intimidation.

It is difficult to set a fixed date for the conclusion of the comprehensive process. This will depend on factors that cannot be weighed at the present time, such as the extent and scope of the political agreements reched under paragraph I, which are a matter of negotiation, and the relationship between the negotiations and the electoral process. There is also a possibility that the initial objective may be achieved before the deadline. For these reasons, the conclusion of the process should be envisaged not in terms of dates but rather in terms of a given number of months after the achievement of the initial objective: tentatively, two to six months.

On the basis of the above understandings, the Government and FMLN shall, as their first substantive priority, concentrate on negotiating the political agreements envisaged under the initial objective.

Caracas, 21 May 1990

Representing the Government of El Salvador:

(Signed)
Colonel Juan A. MARTINEZ VARELA

(Signed)
Mr. Oscar Alfredo SANTAMARIA

(Signed)
Colonel Mauricio Ernesto VARGAS

(Signed)
Mr. Abelardo TORRES

(Signed)
Mr. David ESCOBAR GALINDO

(Signed)
Mr. Rafael HERNAN CONTRERAS

Representing the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional:

(Signed)
Commander Schafik HANDAL

(Signed)
Commander Eduardo SANCHO

(Signed)
Ana Guadelupe MARTINEZ

(Signed)
Salvador SAMAYOA

(Signed)
Dagoberto GUTIERREZ

(Signed)
Marta VALLADARES

(Signed)
Roberto CAÑAS

(Signed) Alvaro de SOTO
Representative of the Secretary-General
of the United Nations